

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A means for the repair of a cardiac valve [[(2)]], said cardiac valve comprising an anterior [[(4)]] and posterior [[(6)]] leaflet, each ~~being~~ protruding from a corresponding leaflet base ~~(8, 10)~~ at the valve annulus [[(13)]], said means being structured and arranged for modifying said cardiac valve [[(2)]], in which [[the]] a distance ~~(D1, D2)~~ between the anterior [[(8)]] and posterior [[(10)]] leaflet bases is determined ~~by means of~~, said means comprising:

at least one stabilizing element [[(14)]] on an atrial side of the cardiac valve, which has been brought into a selected position ~~(26, 28)~~ at each of the leaflet bases ~~(8, 10)~~, said leaflet bases being interconnected by means of said stabilizing element [[(14)]] which is

extended across the atrial side of the cardiac valve
[[(2)]].

Claim 12. (currently amended): A means for the
repair of a cardiac valve [[(2)]], said cardiac valve
comprising an anterior [[(4)]] and posterior [[(6)]]
leaflet, each [[being]] protruding from a corresponding
leaflet base ~~(8, 10)~~ at the valve annulus [[(13)]], said
means being arranged for modifying said cardiac valve
[[(2)]], in which [[the]] a distance ~~(D1, D2)~~ between the
anterior [[(8)]] and posterior [[(10)]] leaflet bases is
determined ~~by means of~~, said means for repair comprising:

at least one stabilizing element [[(14)]],
[[which by means of]] and

a steerable applicator [[(32)]] for endovascular
entrance into the left atrium, ~~has been brought for~~
steering said stabilizing element into a selected position
~~(26, 28)~~ at each of the leaflet bases ~~(8, 10)~~ on an atrial
side of the cardiac valve, said leaflet bases being
interconnected by means of said stabilizing element
[[(14)]] which is extended across the atrial side of the
cardiac valve [[(2)]].


Claim 13. (currently amended): A means for the repair of a cardiac valve [[(2)]], said cardiac valve comprising an anterior [[(4)]] and posterior [[(6)]] leaflet, each [[being]] protruding from a corresponding leaflet base ~~(8; 10)~~ at the valve annulus [[(13)]], said means being arranged for modifying said cardiac valve [[(2)]], in which [[the]] a distance ~~(D1, D2)~~ between the anterior [[(8)]] and posterior [[(10)]] leaflet bases is determined ~~by means of~~, said means for repair comprising:

or
C3
at least one stabilizing element [[(14)]], which is provided with a first [[(22)]] and a second [[(24)]] end, which has been brought into a first [[(26)]] and a second [[(28)]] selected position at an atrial side of the valve annulus [[(13)]], said leaflet bases ~~(8; 10)~~ thereby being interconnected by means of said stabilizing element [[(14)]], which is arranged to be extended across the atrial side of the cardiac valve [[(2)]].

Claim 14. (currently amended): A means for the repair of a cardiac valve [[(2)]], said cardiac valve comprising an anterior [[(4)]] and posterior [[(6)]] leaflet, each [[being]] protruding from a protruding

~~corresponding~~ leaflet base ~~(8, 10)~~ at the valve annulus ~~[(13)]~~, said means being arranged for modifying said cardiac valve ~~[(2),]~~ in which ~~[(the)]~~ a distance ~~(D1, D2)~~ between the anterior ~~[(8)]~~ and posterior ~~[(10)]~~ leaflet bases is determined ~~by means of~~, said means for repair comprising:

at least one stabilizing element ~~[(14),]~~ which is provided with a first ~~[(22)]~~ and a second ~~[(24)]~~ end, ~~which, by means of and~~

 a steerable applicator ~~[(32)]~~ for endovascular entrance into the left atrium, ~~has been brought for~~ steering said stabilizing element into a first ~~[(26)]~~ and a second ~~[(28)]~~ selected position at an atrial side of the valve annulus ~~[(13)]~~, said leaflet bases ~~(8, 10)~~ thereby being interconnected by means of said stabilizing element ~~[(14)]~~, which is arranged to be extended across the atrial side of the cardiac valve~~[(2)]~~.

Claim 15. (previously presented): A means according to claim 11, wherein the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases


is adjustable by means of varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

Claim 16. (original): A means according to claim 15, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is attached to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10) and serves as a support for said leaflets (4, 6).

CG
Claim 17. (original): A means according to claim 16, wherein the stabilizing element (14), in case of a prolaps, by means of shortening its length, is tightened between its selected positions (26; 28) at said leaflet bases (8; 10) close to the apposition line (O) of the leaflets (4, 6) (the orifice plane of the valve), said stabilizing element 14 thereby being straightly extended between said selected positions (26; 28), whereby even a central part of said stabilizing element 14 between said leaflet bases (8; 10) is located close to the apposition line (O) of the leaflets (4, 6), at the same time as the leaflet bases (8; 10) are mutually closer positioned and coaptation of the leaflets (4, 6) attained.

Claim 18. (previously presented): A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a rod or wire.

Clam 19. (currently amended): A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a ~~number~~ plurality of rods or wires.

 Claim 20. (currently amended): A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is a structure comprising a ~~number~~ plurality of rods or wires.

Claim 21. (previously presented): A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a strip or band.

Claim 22. (currently amended): A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a ~~number~~ plurality of strips or bands.

Claim 23. (currently amendment): A means according to claim 21, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ said strip or band is ~~net-formed~~ net-shaped.


Claim 24. (currently amended): A means according to claim 20, wherein an intermediate section of ~~[[each]]~~ said structure, strip or band is shaped in the form of a ring.

CG
Claim 25. (currently amended): A means according to claim 20, wherein an intermediate section of ~~each structure~~, said strip or band is shaped in the form of a circular disc.

Claim 26. (currently amended): A means according to claim ~~[[11]]~~ 12, wherein said steerable applicator ~~(32)~~ ~~(catheter)~~ is encased in an inserting device ~~(guidance sheath)~~ for penetrating the human skin to achieve a venous access port and extended, from a maneuvering device at a proximal end outside said access port, through the femoral vein, the inferior vena cava and the right atrium to penetrate the intra-atrial septum to the left atrium, the steerable applicator ~~(32)~~ ~~(catheter)~~ being arrangable with

a manipulative distal end ~~[[31]]~~ in one of said selected positions ~~(26; 28)~~.

Claim 27. (currently amended): A means according to claim 26, wherein one of the selected ~~position (28) is~~ assessed to positions is at the posterior mitral leaflet base ~~[[10]]~~.

 Claim 28. (currently amended): A means according to claim 26, wherein one of the selected ~~position (26) is~~ positions is at ~~assessed to~~ the anterior mitral leaflet base ~~[[8]]~~.

Claims 29-34 (canceled).

Claim 35 (new): A device for repairing a cardiac valve, the cardiac valve comprising anterior and posterior leaflets, each leaflet protruding from a corresponding leaflet base at an annulus of the cardiac valve, said device comprising:

CS means for interconnecting and reducing a distance
between the anterior and posterior leaflet bases on an
atrial side of the cardiac valve.
